

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

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USIE-00 MC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105699

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, US, NATO

SUBJECT: CEP: IPC REPORT - AMMUNITION LEAD-TIME STUDY

REF: A) USNATO 2432, B) STATE 104615,

-- C) USNATO 1283

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1. WE ARE AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHY RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NEEDED AT THIS TIME IN A STUDY OF THIS SORT DESIGNED FOR THE COUNCIL. HOWEVER, IN AN ATTEMPT TO ALLEVIATE MATTERS, WE PROVIDE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. MAJOR U.S. OBJECTIVE IS AS CITED IN PARA 3, REF B. BY FORWARDING LEAD-TIME STUDY DIRECTLY TO COUNCIL ON URGENT BASIS, COUNCIL WILL HAVE IT PRIOR TO FORTHCOMING DPC MEETING AND STUDY WILL THUS DRAW NAC IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM. STUDY WILL ALSO PROVIDE BASIS FOR RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE AND EXPEDITIOUS ACTION.

3. MAJOR OBSTACLE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF U.S. GOAL APPEARS TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL'S DESIRE TO HAVE ADVICE AND COMMENTS ON STUDY FROM MC AND DRC. PARA 3 OF REF C NOTES MC VIEW THAT IPC STUDY SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED. IN REGARD TO DRC, WE AGREE WITH MISSION THAT DRC IS NOT FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT AT THIS STAGE; HOWEVER, THE DRC SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE IPC STUDY TO USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ITS OWN STANDING GROUP STUDY ON WAR RESERVE STOCKS.

4. SOME OF THE POSSIBLE METHODS WHEREBY THE GAP IN THE SUPPLY/DEMAND FOR MUNITIONS CAN BE CLOSED ARE NOTED IN REF B. SINCE EACH NATION INVOLVED AS A PRODUCER OR CONSUMER IS SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OR CONSTRAINTS, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL ENDORSE ANY SPECIFIC SOLUTION WITHOUT FURTHER INVESTIGATION. FURTHERMORE, WE DO NOT WISH TO OFFER ANY SOLUTION WHICH COULD IMPACT ADVERSELY ON THE U.S. PRODUCTION BASE. RATHER, WE FEEL THAT EVENTUALLY EACH COUNTRY SHOULD, AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, ADDRESS ALL CATEGORIES OF MUNITIONS ALREADY LISTED BY SHAPE AS CRITICAL. FOR THE MOMENT, WE FEEL THAT IN FORWARDING THE IPC REPORT TO THE COUNCIL, THE SCEPC SHOULD INVITE THE COUNCIL TO:

A. NOTE THE STUDY.

B. EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE CONCLUSION THAT THE CURRENT NATO PRODUCTION BASE IS UNABLE, AT PRESENT ESTIMATED
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SUPPLY/DEMAND LEVELS, TO RESUPPLY ALL CATEGORIES OF AMMUNITION CONSUMED BY D PLUS 30.

C. REQUEST NATIONS TO FURNISH NATO, THROUGH THEIR IPC REPRESENTATIVE, THE MEASURES THEY INTEND TO OR ARE PURSUING TO ALLEVIATE THE POTENTIAL SHORTAGES.

D. REQUEST THAT DRC UTILIZE THE IPC STUDY IN THE FURTHER

DEVELOPMENT OF ITS STUDY ON WAR RESERVE STOCKS.

E. PROVIDE SCEPC WITH ANY ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE THE COUNCIL
MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE ON ADDITIONAL STUDIES DESIRED BEYOND
THE ITEMS ALREADY ADDRESSED.

5. WE BELIEVE IT VITAL THAT NAC STRONGLY ENDORSE IMPORTANCE
OF STUDY AND INVITE THE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBER NATIONS IN
ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SUBJECT.

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